Workers engaged in hand processed dye-printing in textile industries in Rajasthan

4325.SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (-DURRU): Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than one lakh workers are engaged in the hand processed dye-printing textiles industries of Balotra in Rajasthan;

(b) whether tnese industries are facing serious crisis and are on the verge of closure;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the entrepreneurs of these industries have highlighted their problems to Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action contemplated by Government to redress their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) to (f) As per information available, there are 370 hand processing units engaged in dyeing in Balotra, Rajasthan and not more than 9250 workers are likely to be engaged in these units. Representations have been received from textile hand processing segments including units located in Rajasthan regarding withdrawal of excise exemption on specified processes carried out with the aid of power. The Government takes appropriate steps from time to time to redress the concern of the industry based on merit of the points made in the representations.

Preventive measures against import of cotton

4326. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the fact that Bt. Cotton field fell far below expectations, and the failure to relieve the cotton grower of the debt burden, Government have considered the imposing of preventive measures against imports of cotton, including heavy import duty;

(b) if so, the decision that has been taken in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) As per preliminary reports three Bt. Cotton hybrids released for commercial cultivation during the current cotton year have been found to be reasonably resistant against Bollworm thereby reducing the requirement of spray of insecticides.

Imposing of preventive measures against imports of cotton, including heavy import duty is not under consideration at present.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

Strike by silk reelers in Karnataka

4327. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Silk reelers in Karnataka State resorted to strike demanding banning of import of Cheap China Silk, if so, the details of demand;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to strike no one come forward to purchase/buy the cocoons from the farmers, threw their cocoons on roads and incurred losses; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to stop the import of Cheap China Silk and to save the farmers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. The demand of the silk reelers relates to curb on import of raw silk, silk yarn and silk fabric from China.

(b) No such instances have been reported.

(c) Government has taken the following steps to prevent market disruption:—

1. The Government of India *vide* Customs' Notification No. 2/ 2Q03 dated 2nd January, 2003 has imposed anti-dumping duty equivalent to the difference between the amount of US $ 33.19 per kg. and the landed value of imported mulberry raw silk (not thrown), 2A grade and below, originating in, or exported